

includes Claims 13-17 and 23-24 and is drawn to a gap adjustment apparatus and method as described in Figures 5-6A and page 28, line 11, through page 29, line 20.

Applicant herein elects Group III (Claims 13-17 and 23-24) for prosecution.

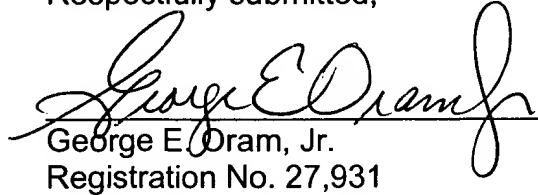
The Examiner also indicated that an election of species would be required if Group III was elected for prosecution. The Examiner has divided Group III into two (2) species. Species IIIa is drawn to Claims 13-17 and is directed towards a gap adjustment apparatus. Species IIIb is drawn to Claims 23-24 and is directed towards a gap adjustment method.

Applicant herein elects Species IIIa (Claims 13-17) for prosecution.

Please note that this Response is timely filed. Examiner Noland indicated in the Restriction Requirement that the period for responding to the Restriction Requirement would expire thirty (30) days from the mailing of the Restriction Requirement. March 28, 2003 (the date this Response is filed) is exactly thirty days from the mailing date of the Restriction Requirement. Therefore, it is submitted that a Petition for an Extension of Time is not necessary.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 01-2300. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 107317-00037.

Respectfully submitted,

  
George E. Dram, Jr.  
Registration No. 27,931

Customer No. 004372  
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC  
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Tel: (202) 857-6000  
Fax: (202) 638-4810